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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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MAN SENTENCED FOR BANK ROBBERY

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Billy Ray Smith, age 38, of Romney, West Virginia was sentenced today by the Honorable Frederic N. Smalkin to serve a 57-month sentence for five bank robberies. The Court also ordered Mr. Smith to pay restitution to the banks after he completes incarceration.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court, Smith robbed five Maryland banks located in Laurel, Brunswick, Elkridge, Ellicott City and Woodbine from July 22 through August 21, 2002. During the robberies, Smith would hand a note to a teller demanding money and in all occasions but one, advise that he had a gun. The total amount of money provided by the tellers was \$11,030. After the defendant was arrested, he confessed to all five bank robberies.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ari S. Casper.

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